

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

Page 4 of 22

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 1, characterized in that A surface illumination device comprising a light guide plate that has a reflecting prism face and a light exit face opposite to the prism face for propagating incident light inside the plate and reflecting the light at the reflecting prism face to output the light from the light exit face, which further comprises: a polarizing plate provided on the light exit face; and an anti-reflection film provided on the polarizing plate.

wherein the reflecting prism face extends so that a direction of electric vector's vibration of an s-polarized light component of a reflecting light ray caused by an incident light ray in a predetermined propagation direction is in parallel with a polarization axis of the polarizing plate.

3. (Original) A surface illumination device comprising a light guide plate that has a reflecting prism face and a light exit face opposite to the prism face for propagating incident light inside the plate and reflecting the light at the reflecting prism face to output the light from the light exit face, which further comprises a polarizing plate provided opposite to the light exit face, the reflecting prism face extending so that a direction of electric vector's vibration of an s-polarized light component of a reflecting light ray caused by an incident light ray in a predetermined propagation direction is in parallel with a polarization axis of the polarizing plate.

Atty. Docket No. JP-020011US

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

Page 5 of 22

4. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 2, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that the illumination device further comprises comprising~~: a side light section comprising a light emission section and a light guide body section for propagating the light emitted by the light emission section to widely introduce it into an end face of the light guide plate; and un-divergence means for reducing a degree of divergence of light incident on an end face of the light guide plate, the un-divergence means including a prism body section arranged to cause the light to be incident on the light guide plate in such a manner that the incident light ray in the predetermined propagation direction comes into the reflecting prism face.

5. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device comprising: a light guide plate that has a reflecting prism face and a light exit face opposite to the prism face for propagating incident light inside the plate and reflecting the light at the reflecting prism face to output the light from the light exit face; and a side light section for introducing the light into an end face of the light guide plate, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that: wherein~~ the side light section comprises a light emission section and a polarizing section for polarizing the light emitted by the light emission section, and is arranged so that the polarized light component is introduced into an end face of the light guide plate; and the polarizing section has a polarizing axis parallel with a direction of electric vector's vibration of an s-polarized light component of a reflecting light ray caused in the reflecting prism face by an incident light ray in a predetermined propagation direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 5, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that: wherein~~ the side light section comprises a light guide body section for propagating the light emitted by the light emission section to widely introduce it into an end face of the light guide plate; the surface illumination device further comprises un-divergence means for causing a degree of divergence of the light incident on an end face of the light guide plate to be reduced; and the un-divergence means comprise a prism body section arranged to make light to enter the

Atty. Docket No. JP-020011US

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

Page 6 of 22

light guide plate in such a manner that the incident light ray in the predetermined propagation direction is introduced into the reflecting prism face.

7. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claim 2, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein the predetermined propagation direction is a propagation direction in which the incident light ray can make a plane of incidence that is perpendicular to the reflecting prism face and the light exit face.

8. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claim 2, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein a plurality of swath-shaped faces are used for the reflective prism face, and the predetermined propagation direction is a direction along a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the swath-shaped face.

9. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 4, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein the prism body section is formed integral with the light guide plate.

10. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim ~~[[4]]~~6, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein the prism body section is formed on the polarizing section.

11. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 4, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein the prism body section is formed integral with the light guide body section.

12. (Currently Amended) A display device using a surface illumination device as defined in ~~any one of~~ claim 1, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that~~wherein the surface illumination device is arranged in such a manner that the light exit face is faced to a display face of the display device.

Atty. Docket No. JP-020011US

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

Page 7 of 22

13. (Currently Amended) A display device as defined in claim 12,

~~CHARACTERIZED in that wherein~~ the display device has a second polarizing plate provided faced to the light exit face, the reflecting prism face extending so that a direction of electric vector vibration of an s-polarized light component of a reflecting light ray caused by an incident light ray in the predetermined propagation direction is also in parallel with a polarization axis of the second polarizing plate.

14. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device using a surface illumination device as defined in claim 313, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that wherein~~ the display device comprises a liquid crystal cell for performing optical modulation in accordance with an image to be displayed, the polarizing plate being carried on the liquid crystal cell.

15. (Original) A surface illumination device comprising: a light guide plate that has a reflecting prism face and a light exit face opposite to the prism face for propagating incident light inside the plate and reflecting the light at the reflecting prism face to output the light from the light exit face; and a side light section for making light to be incident on an end face of the light guide plate, wherein the side light section comprises a light emission section, a light guide body section for propagating the light emitted by the light emission section to widely introduce it into an end face of the light guide plate, and un-divergence means for causing a degree of divergence of the light incident on an end face of the light guide plate to be reduced, the un-divergence means comprises a prism body section formed integral with the light guide body section.

16. (Currently Amended) A surface illumination device as defined in claim 15, ~~CHARACTERIZED in that wherein~~ the light guide body section has a light exit face faced toward an end face of the light guide plate and a light reflective face opposed

Atty. Docket No. JP-020011US

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

Page 8 of 22

to the exit face, the prism body section being formed by projections and depressions of the light exit face.

17. (New) The surface illumination device of claim 3, further including a side light section, comprising:

a light emission section,

a light guide body section for propagating light emitted by the light emission section to widely introduce it into an end face of the light guide plate, and

un-divergence means for reducing a degree of divergence of light incident on an end face of the light guide plate, the un-divergence means including a prism body section arranged to cause the light to be incident on the light guide plate in such a manner that the incident light ray in the predetermined propagation direction comes into the reflecting prism face.

18. (New) The surface illumination device of claim 17, wherein the prism body section is formed integral with the light guide plate.

19. (New) The surface illumination device of claim 17, wherein the prism body section is formed integral with the light guide body section of the side light section.

20. (New) The surface illumination device of claim 17, wherein the side light section further comprises a polarizing section for polarizing the light emitted by the light emission section.

21. (New) The surface illumination device of claim 17, wherein the prism body section is formed on the polarizing section.

Atty. Docket No. JP-020011US